

Division of Drinking Water
Operator Certification Program

Utah Water Operator News

July 2005

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What is the Operator Certification Commission?

THE OPERATOR CERTIFICATION COMMISSION (established in 1983) is appointed by the Utah Drinking Water Board as an advisory commission on water operator certification. All seven members of the Commission are appointed by the Board from recommendations made by the cooperating agencies. Cooperating agencies who nominate commission members are:

- ? Utah League of Cities and Towns (municipal water supply management)
- ? Training Coordinating Committee of Utah (water supply trainers)
- ? Intermountain Section of the American Water Works Association (at least a grade III unrestricted distribution operator, and at least a grade III unrestricted treatment operator)
- ? Civil or environmental engineering department of a Utah university cooperating with the certification program
- ? Rural Water Association of Utah (a certified operator from a town having a population under 10,000)
- ? Utah Department of Environmental Quality (a representative from the Drinking Water Board)

The Commission is charged with the responsibility of conducting all work necessary to promote the program, recommend certification of operators, and oversee the maintenance of records.

The Executive Secretary of the Commission (a senior public environmental health representative from the Division of Drinking Water) is the individual authorized by the Board to conduct business on its behalf. The executive secretary, a non-voting commission member, has been delegated the responsibility of conducting the necessary daily duties of the Board.

How does the Commission handle deliberate acts of non-compliance with the certification program? After appropriate consideration by the Commission, cases of non-compliance are referred to the Drinking Water Board for appropriate enforcement action. ?

OPERATOR CERTIFICATION COMMISSION

Member	Agency Represented	Term of Office Expires
James Callison (Chair)	Joint Training Coordinating Committee	2005
Arnold Smith (Vice-chair)	Rural Water Association of Utah	2007
Dr. David K. Stevens	Higher Education	2006
Bart Simons	Utah League of Cities and Towns	2006
Jay Franson, P.E.	Drinking Water Board	2005
Craig F. Fahrni	American Water Works Association - Distribution	2007
Mark H. Clark	American Water Works Association - Treatment	2007

Kim Dyches (Executive Secretary) represents the Division of Drinking Water.

Operator Certification Commission meets to discuss future of program

New fee structure proposed, new study guides and reference material approved

On May 20, 2005, an operator certification commission meeting was held. The Commission members discussed many items of business, and some of the items that were discussed will affect Utah's water operators and water systems directly.

New Fee Structure - The item that operators and water systems will notice the most is the proposal of the new fee structure for exams, renewals, reinstatements, etc. The Commission voted to abolish the \$20.00 record application fee and, with the exception of the conversion fee, made changes to the rest of the fee structure. The rationale behind the increases was that there hasn't been an increase in fees for the last ten years or more. So with inflation and the need to fund the operator certification program, the Commission felt that the increase was justified. Here is the fee structure that will be proposed to the Legislature at the next session. If approved, the fee changes could go into effect July 1, 2006.

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Record application fee:	\$20.00	none
Exam fee:	\$50.00	\$100.00
Renewal fee:	\$50.00	\$100.00
Reinstatement fee:	\$75.00	\$200.00
Reciprocity fee:	\$50.00	\$100.00
Conversion fee:	\$20.00	\$ 20.00
Grandparent certificate:	\$50.00	\$100.00

The other item of business at the meeting was the exam matrix. The exams are generated from questions that come from a matrix containing six categories: Math, pumps and pumping, disinfection, state rules, operation and maintenance, and safety. The Commission voted to change the title of two of the categories:

? Disinfection to "Chemical Feed" - Because of the addition of chemicals such as fluoride and the new chemicals being used, the Commission felt that the disinfection section should be broader than just disinfection and include different types of chemical feeders.

? Safety to "Safety and Security" - The safety section will now be expanded to include security questions.

New Study Guides and Reference Material - New study guides are available on the Division of Drinking Water website at: http://drinkingwater.utah.gov/opcert_application.htm. Many of the questions are the same, but look for new rules questions, security questions, chemical feed questions, etc.

A copy of the new reference material used in the writing of the security questions is available on page 5 of this newsletter. Copies of all study material may be obtained by contacting the Operator Certification Program staff: Telephone (801) 536-4192, E-mail: mhand@utah.gov.

2005 operator certification exam dates and locations

Attention all water system operators and managers, and anyone seeking employment in the water industry. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Drinking Water, is offering operator certification exams for water distribution and water treatment. All grade levels, including small systems, will be offered:

? SEPTEMBER 14, 2005: ST. GEORGE

? SEPTEMBER 23, 2005: PARK CITY

? NOVEMBER 4, 2005: 16 UTAH LOCATIONS (Logan, Brigham, Nephi, Richfield, Farmington, Salt Lake, Monticello, Price, Cedar, St. George, Park City, Tooele, Provo, Vernal, Heber, Ogden)

The September 14, 2005, exam will be held in St. George at the Dixie Convention Center, 1835 Convention Center Drive, St. George, Utah, in conjunction with the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Intermountain Section annual conference. The regular conference sessions will run September 14-16.

To help prepare applicants for the certification exam, AWWA has included a two-day pre-exam training course (cost \$65.00) in their conference program. The training will run two full days, September 12-13. The exam will be held Wednesday morning, September 14, at 9:00 a.m. **The application deadline is August 26, 2005.** You will be given 3 hours to take the exam. The exam will contain 100 multiple-choice questions covering math, safety and security, chemical feed, state rules, pumps and pumping, *(continued)*

and operation and maintenance. A minimum score of 70% is needed to pass the exam. To obtain a conference registration form, contact the AWWA. To obtain an exam application, contact the Division of Drinking Water.

To register for the AWWA conference (Sept 14-16) or the pre-exam training course (Sept 12-13), contact:

American Water Works Association/
Intermountain Section
Alane Boyd, Administrative Manager
Telephone: (801) 712-1619
Fax: (801) 942-3674
E-mail: awwa@ims-awwa.org
Website: www.ims-awwa.org

To apply for the operator certification exam, send application and fee (page 4) to:

Division of Drinking Water
Operator Certification Program
150 North 1950 West
PO Box 144830
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4830
Telephone: (801) 536-4192
Fax: (801) 536-4211
E-mail: mhand@utah.gov

The September 23, 2005, exam will be held in Park City at the Yarrow Hotel & Convention Center, 1800 Park Avenue, Park City, Utah, in conjunction with the Rural Water Association of Utah (RWAU) northern conference. The regular conference sessions will run September 22-23.

To help prepare applicants for the certification exam, RWAU has included a three-day pre-exam training course in their conference program. The training will run three full days, September 20-22. The exam will be held Friday morning, September 23, at 9:00 a.m. **The application deadline is September 2, 2005.** You will be given 3 hours to take the exam. The certification exam will contain 100 multiple-choice questions covering safety and security, math, chemical feed, state rules, pumps and pumping, and operation and maintenance. A minimum score of 70% is needed to pass the exam. To obtain a conference registration form, contact the RWAU. To obtain an exam application, contact the Division of Drinking Water (DDW).

To register for the RWAU conference (September 22-23) or the pre-exam training course (September 20-22), contact:

Rural Water Association of Utah
76 E. Red Pine Drive
Alpine, Utah 84004
Telephone: (801) 756-5123
Fax: (801) 756-5036
E-mail: smcomber@rwau.net

To apply for the operator certification exam, send application and fee (page 4) to:

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The November 4, 2005, exam will be offered at 16 Utah locations (see exam application for list of cities). The exam will begin at 9:00 a.m. at all locations. You will be given 3 hours to take the exam. The exam will contain 100 multiple-choice questions covering safety and security, math, chemical feed, state rules, pumps and pumping, and operation and maintenance. A minimum score of 70% is needed to pass the exam. Exam applications must arrive at the Division of Drinking Water office by the **October 14, 2005, deadline**. Applications received after the deadline will not be processed.

Note to individuals who plan to take a pre-exam training course:

Although the Division of Drinking Water is offering all grade level exams, the training is specifically directed toward small systems and grade level one. Because of the wide range of knowledge needed for all exams, you should come to the training course prepared to take the exam. The training will be beneficial to everyone, but should be used more as a refresher course for your pre-study preparation.

HOW TO APPLY FOR AN EXAM - Fill out the exam application completely and mail it, along with the appropriate fee, to the Division of Drinking Water. Make
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the check or money order payable to: "Division of Drinking Water."

Record application fee (for first-time applicants who have never before taken an exam \$20.00

Examination fee \$50.00

Note: If you have taken an water operator exam in the past, you need only pay the \$50.00 exam fee.

The exam application and fee must arrive at the Division of Drinking Water office on or before the deadline listed. Applications and fees received after the deadline will not be processed. A confirmation letter will be mailed to all applicants. If you do not receive your confirmation letter, please contact the Operator Certification Program staff immediately at (801) 536-4200.

Exam cancellation policy: Only one cancellation, per applicant, is allowed. An applicant making a written or phone-in cancellation by 9:00 a.m. on the day of the exam may request a refund of the exam fee or take the next scheduled exam. If the applicant should also cancel the next scheduled exam, the exam fee will be forfeited. ?

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Operator Certification Program

150 North 1950 West

P.O. Box 144830

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4830

Telephone: (801) 536-4192

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E-mail: mhand@utah.gov

Website: <http://drinkingwater.utah.gov>

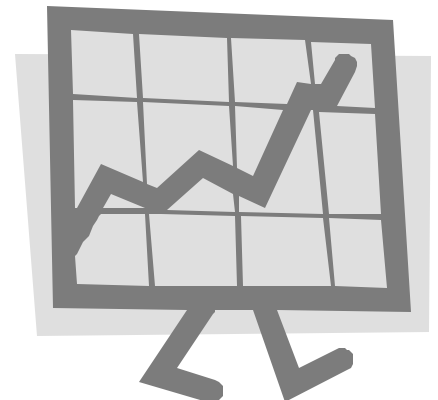
Utah's community & NTNC water systems come into compliance

The operator certification requirements for nontransient noncommunity (NTNC) drinking water systems and for community water systems serving less than 800 population, serving only ground water, were to be met by February 1, 2003. Certification must be appropriate for the type of system operated (treatment and/or distribution).

The Operator Certification Program is pleased to report that the number of community and NTNC systems without certified operators has decreased significantly in the last two years. The decrease in numbers is due to the success of the operator certification efforts undertaken with the EPA training grant, the one-on-one training given to small system operators by the Rural Water Association of Utah, the enforcement of the improvement priority system (IPS) rule that charges 30 points to water systems that are not in compliance, and the efforts by small system operators who applied for, prepared for and passed the certification exams. ?

Exam statistics (February 2004 to April 2005)

- ? Number of water operator exams held between February 2004 and April 2005: **6**
- ? Number of individuals who participated in the exams: **608**
- ? Water distribution exams (includes 72 small system exams): **495**
- ? Water treatment exams: **113**
- ? Average passing percentage: **65%**
- ? New certified water operators for this period: **249**
- ? Total number of certified water operators in Utah: approx. **2,100**



Reference material used in the water operator certification exam

The following books and documents are available at the Operator Certification Program's Lending Library, 150 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City, Utah. For more information, please contact the Operator Certification Program staff by telephone: (801) 536-4192; fax: 801-536-4211; or e-mail: mhand@utah.gov ?

TITLE	PUBLISHED BY*
1. Basic Science Concepts and Applications (Second Edition)	AWWA
2. Water Sources (Second Edition)	AWWA
3. Water Treatment (Second Edition)	AWWA
4. Water Transmission and Distribution (Second Edition)	AWWA
5. Water Quality (Second Edition)	AWWA
6. Water Distribution Operator Training Handbook	AWWA
7. Small Water System Operation and Maintenance	CSU
8. Water Distribution System Operation and Maintenance	CSU
9. Water Treatment Plant Operation, Volume 1	CSU
10. Water Treatment Plant Operation, Volume 2	CSU
11. State of Utah Public Drinking Water Rules, Parts 1 & 2	DDW
12. Cross Connection Control Program of Utah	DDW
13. Utah Operator Certification Rules	DDW
14. Response Protocol Toolbox	USEPA
15. Security Vulnerability Self Assessment (for small systems between 3,300 and 10,000)	NRWA/ASDWA
16. Guidance for Utility Response, Recovery and Remediation Actions	USEPA
17. Emergency Preparedness USA	FEMA
18. Emergency Planning Interactive Guide	AWWA
19. ERP Guidance for Small and Medium Community Water Systems	USEPA
20. VSAT, Version 3	SCIENTECH GROUP
21. The Bioterrorism Act of 2002, Title IV (Drinking Water Security and Safety)	H.R. 3448
22. Instructions to Assist Community Water Systems	USEPA
23. Water and Wastewater Security Product Guide	USEPA

*AWWA - American Water Works Association

CSU - California State University

DDW - Division of Drinking Water

USEPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

NRWA - National Rural Water Association

ASDWA - Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Association

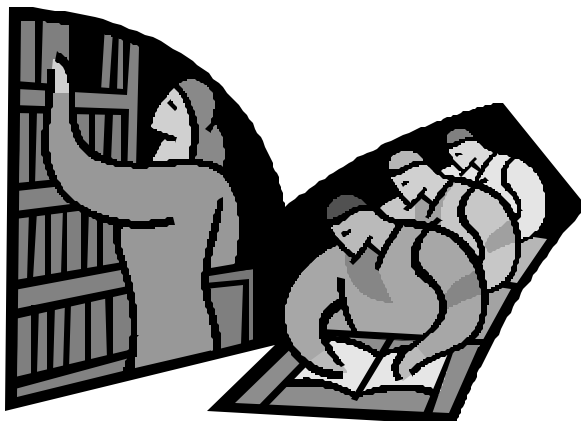
Nervous About the Operator Certification Exam?

WE CAN HELP! There are several self-paced courses available, as well as formal organized training by the sponsors listed below. A water training calendar is published by the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) each year, and a free copy is available upon request.

There is also a "Lending Library" available for your use at the DDW office. By filling out a library application, you can borrow books, videos and DVDs ? with no lending fee! If you have questions about training or training material, please contact the Operator Certification Program staff at (801) 536-4200. ?

Rural Water Association of Utah
76 East Red Pine Drive
Alpine, Utah 84004-1557
Telephone: (801) 756-5123
E-mail: rwau@rwau.net

American Water Works Association
Intermountain Section
Small Systems Committee
Phone: (801) 712-1619 Alane Boyd
E-mail: awwa@ims-awwa.org
Website: www.IMS-AWWA.org



Utah Valley State College
Environmental Technology Services
800 W. University Parkway
Orem, Utah 84058
Telephone: (801) 863-8117 Lucile

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Key Features of the Utah Operator Certification Program

? The Utah Operator Certification Rules are established to promote use of trained, experienced, and efficient personnel in charge of public waterworks and to establish standards whereby operating personnel can demonstrate competency to protect the public health through proficient operation of waterworks facilities.

? The Operator Certification Program is authorized by the Utah Public Drinking Water Rules. The rules state that "All community and nontransient noncommunity water systems or any public system that employs treatment techniques for surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water shall have an appropriately certified operator."

? All public drinking water systems within the state of Utah have been assigned a complexity level (I, II, III, IV) and discipline (treatment or distribution) for the certification requirements of their operators. Any operator who makes independent decisions that affect the sanitary quality, safety, and adequacy of the water to their system will need to be certified to the grade of the system.

? Attendance at approved training such as workshops, seminars, classes, etc., is required for the renewal of certificates every three years.

? When an operator who is "in charge" of a drinking water system leaves that particular employment, the water system management or city/town council must notify the Operator Certification Program of this change within 10 days of the operator's departure, and replace the departing operator with an appropriately certified operator within one year.

? Should several neighboring drinking water systems wish to work together, they may hire a "regional operator" who may be "in charge" of several drinking water systems; thereby reducing the costs of having a certified operator for each drinking water system.

? Should someone other than an operator, or an individual who is seeking employment with a Utah drinking water system (consultants, design engineers, salespersons, etc.), wish to become certified, they may take the certification exam and be issued a "specialist certificate." This certificate does not allow a "specialist" to actually operate a drinking water system. ?

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Operator Certification Program
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